

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RIVERBANK NAVAL  
PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS  
JAMES RAY LAYTON

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor fallen Riverbank Naval Petty Officer Third Class James Ray Layton.

HM3 James Ray Layton was born in Livermore, California on January 29, 1987 and died September 8, 2009 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan serving during Operation Enduring Freedom. Artist, healer and music lover James Ray Layton brought joy and love into the lives of his family, friends and Comrades in Arms.

At the time of his death Layton was assigned to Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, which is responsible for training and equipping Afghan security forces. Lt. Cmdr. John Daniels, a Navy spokesman at the Pentagon, said Layton deployed to Afghanistan with an element of the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Division. Layton enlisted Dec. 20, 2007.

Layton's death was described by McClatchy Newspapers correspondent Jonathan Landay, who was embedded with a group of Marines and pinned down by heavy fire in a rugged section of Kunar Province on Tuesday. "The Marines were cut down as they sought cover in a trench at the base of the village's first layer cake-style stone house. Much of their ammunition was gone. One Marine (later determined to be Layton) was bending over a second, tending his wounds, when both were killed, said Marine Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 21, of Greensburg, Ky., who retrieved their bodies."

Layton is the 28th soldier or Marine from the Northern San Joaquin Valley and foothills killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the first from Riverbank.

He is survived by his father Brent Layton, mother Nikki Freitas, step-father Gilbert Freitas, brothers Jonathon, Jesse, Brandon and Sage, and sister Jordan, grandmothers Kathy Anderson and Shirley Hughes, grandfather Winn Layton, stepsister Andrea Freitas, stepbrother Jason Freitas, and loving aunts, uncles and cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his Papa, Ray Hughes.

HONORING MR. RONNY VANDYKE  
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Ronny Vandyke on the occasion of his retirement, on September 1, 2011, and to thank

him for his more than thirty-three years of distinguished service and dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. VanDyke has played an integral role in the Information Technology journey of the House. He began in 1978 as a COBOL programmer supporting mainframe applications, transitioned readily into online application development using CICS, and then integrated mainframe and workstation technologies for the Information Services and Integrated Systems (ISIS) project. Finally, Mr. VanDyke worked on the design, development and support of the CAO's Web-based services.

Mr. VanDyke developed the first electronic mail system on the House mainframe and played a key role in the design and development of the mainframe-based Member Information Network (MIN). MIN provided congressional offices with online information services including newswires, LEGIS and GRANTS, as well as Member services such as scheduling, casework and tracking. Mr. VanDyke excels at developing standardized processes that are then readily adapted for multiple uses in support of House office business.

Mr. VanDyke played a key role in the design and development of the first release of the www.house.gov web site and the Write Your Representative Service, providing Members their first opportunity for a customized Web presence and e-communications.

Many of the core services Mr. VanDyke originally developed for the mainframe, he successfully made available on the Internet. These services continue to provide Member offices ease of communication with their constituency including, but not limited to, Google Site Search, custom in-House content management and publishing services, zip code authentication, and Web form processes enabling both the development of dynamic surveys as well as the electronic submission of constituent requests to one's specific House Representative.

Mr. VanDyke's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance of his daily tasks have been exemplary. His ability to adapt to emerging technologies and his skilled transition of core House services has provided House offices seamless support and earned the respect of his co-workers, peers and management. Mr. VanDyke has provided House offices with superior customer service, almost always from behind the scenes, by providing those on the front lines with the confidence to propose technical solutions knowing that he will make it work.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Mr. Ronny Vandyke for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the House.

We wish him many wonderful years to fulfill his retirement dreams.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE-  
LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN-  
CREASE

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2011*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, nearly two-thirds of Americans say that job creation should be Washington's top priority. But no one here needs an opinion poll to learn that. I am sure all my colleagues are hearing what I hear by mail, fax, e-mail, Twitter, phone calls, Facebook, and passersby on the street. Everyone is saying, "Congress, get on with it! Make jobs! Get America to work! Get my husband, my cousin, my daughter to work." And, yet again, the Republican majority in the House is playing political games—wasting time debating a senseless resolution when we could, and should, be doing the work that the American people sent us here to do: creating jobs and revitalizing our economy. I recently visited several manufacturers in Central New Jersey to hear directly from job creators about what the federal government can do to promote growth. The political circus surrounding the debt ceiling negotiations was not mentioned once. With 25 million Americans either unemployed or underemployed, it's time to stop the political shenanigans and focus on the task at hand: putting America back to work. The debt ceiling debate this summer already wasted months that could have otherwise been spent focusing on job creation. In the end, the government made the responsible choice to pay its bills—case closed. Instead of further exacerbating the partisan divide on Capitol Hill, we should be coming together to fashion an effective, bipartisan jobs bill that the American people expect and deserve. How much time must we waste before we get serious about putting America back to work?

EDISON INTERNATIONAL

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Edison International on its 125th year of business.

Edison was founded on July 4, 1886 in Visalia, California and from then on, Edison has worked to find new and more efficient ways to serve its customers safely and reliably. For example, in 1898, Orville Ensign, an Edison engineer, designed the first insulator made from porcelain instead of glass which enabled the company to increase voltage on transmission lines. In the early 1900s, Edison engineer James Lighthipe designed the longest and highest voltage transmission line. It was also the first to be supported entirely by steel towers.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Today, Edison employs over 14,000 individuals in Southern California alone and its utility subsidiary, Southern California Edison, has over 12,000 miles of transmission lines. Edison is also currently building the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, the largest wind transmission venture in the United States. Edison is also involved with developing wind energy. Edison Mission Energy, one of the largest developers of wind energy, has 30 projects in operation or under construction in 11 states.

Edison continues looking towards the future and is leading an initiative to prepare the electric grid for the widespread adoption of plug-in electric vehicles. Finally, Edison is currently working to upgrade its electric system infrastructure so that they will be prepared for the next 125 years.

It is important to note the dedication of Edison International to the communities it serves. With many families struggling in the current economy, Edison is working with residents and businesses to help them save money by utilizing energy efficiency techniques. In addition, in 2010, employees contributed \$4.3 million to schools and non-profits. This year, to celebrate its 125th anniversary, Edison employees are taking part in 125 community service events, including assisting City of Hope and other valuable organizations.

Congratulations to Edison and its employees for 125 years of innovation, reliable service and commitment to the community.

HONORING NATHAN JAY  
CHALOUPKA

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Jay Chaloupka. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan designed and built an outdoor prayer and meditation area for the First United Methodist Church of Kearney.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Jay Chaloupka for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING STREET SOCCER  
USA

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Street Soccer USA, a leader in sports-

based youth development for Americans facing homelessness.

SSUSA builds trust through sports to help adults and youth overcome homelessness, and is a powerful tool for workforce development, educational advancement, improved health, and crime and violence reduction.

This summer, over 200 athletes from 18 U.S. cities competed as part of the Nation's premier sport-for-change event in DC June 10-12.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating this year's participating teams. They are among a distinguished group of individuals dedicated to improving their lives.

Congratulations to the men's and women's teams from Street Soccer Minneapolis, both of whom took home the Leonsis Trophy for first place.

Thanks to the hard-working employees and volunteers who made the event such a huge success. May God bless you with many more successful years ahead.

Indeed these individuals are demonstrating that ending homelessness and poverty is a team sport!

HONORING CHRISTOPHER NOAL  
BROWNING

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Noal Browning. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 237, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christopher designed and constructed a divider wall around the restrooms at Bunceton Park in Bunceton, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Noal Browning for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. WILLIAM  
ASTOR KIRK, SR., EDUCATOR  
AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr., educator, social activist and author. Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr., was the eldest of six children born to Alex and Exella Kirk in Harleton, Texas. He briefly attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas before enrolling in

Howard University in Washington, DC where he received both a bachelor's and master's degree, respectively.

Dr. Kirk led a life devoted to family, faith and intellectual pursuits and fought to bring about social justice and equality for African Americans in public facilities and accommodations in educational institutions. Dr. Kirk and his wife of more than sixty years, Vivian Tramble married in 1946 and had two children. The Kirk's core values centered on faith and family and intellectual curiosity and social responsibility—beliefs Dr. Kirk graciously shared with family and friends.

Upon completing his Master's degree in Government from Howard University in 1974, Dr. Kirk and wife Vivian relocated to Austin, Texas where he assumed the position of professor of Government and Economics at Huston-Tillotson College. Dr. Kirk, active in Austin civic life was an organizer in the local chapter of the NAACP and arranged peaceful protests that led to desegregation of the Austin Public Library and many other public facilities. Dr. Kirk's work against discrimination also focused on the University of Texas where he applied and was admitted to a PhD Program. Dr. Kirk's refusal to study in segregated classes prompted a lawsuit by the Austin chapter of the NAACP. Subsequently, Kirk began his studies at the University after a United States Supreme Court ruling of *Sweatt v. Painter*, which ended segregation of the University's school was applied to its graduate program as well. In 1958, W. Astor Kirk, Sr. became the first African American to earn and receive a Doctorate in Political Science from the University of Texas.

Dr. Kirk was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London, England. Professionally, in addition to his teaching post at Huston-Tillotson, Dr. Kirk was adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland and had teaching assignments at Rutgers University, Boston University School of Theology and Howard University.

Dr. Kirk also had a distinguished career as a federal government executive and management consultant. In 1968, Dr. Kirk was personally recruited by President Lyndon B. Johnson for the post of Deputy Regional Director (Southwest Region) of the United States Office of Economic Opportunity. He continued his government service under the Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations. Following his retirement from the federal civil service, Dr. Kirk founded and was CEO of Organization Management Services Corporation, an organizational development firm.

Prior to his passing, Dr. Kirk initiated an anti-discrimination mass petition in an effort with the Church to end, in his words, "the mandatory negative differential treatment of gays, lesbians and bisexuals United Methodists."

Dr. Kirk's lifetime of contributions to education, racial and gender equality and broad civil rights issues inspires all, as he was not afraid to tackle the biggest, most looming issues of his day.

Again, I ask that my colleagues please join me in saluting the life and legacy of educator, humanitarian and social activist, Dr. William Astor Kirk, Sr.